1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RY4 Koryak RY4

which, however, may be protected by the left wing, like his right arm, by putting a wing-loop on his hand. How much strength, agility, and exercise must have been required to fight in so heavy and uncomfortable a costume! In one myth,[1] when Big-Raven offered his son Ememqut an armor for a battle with the Chukchee, the son declined the offer and went to battle armed only with his spear.

Fig. 98 also shows how the helmet and arm-guards made of small iron plates were worn.[2] The warriors wore a fur band under the helmet to protect the forehead against the hard iron. The lower part of the armor, which consists of small iron plates tied together with thong, resembles a skirt. It was closed at the side by means of short straps.

Plate XXIX, Fig. 1, represents two Koryak in armor, with bent bows. The plate is the reproduction of a photograph taken by me, except that the artist, Mr. Rudolf Cronau, sketched in under my direction the missing wing of the armor.

Prior to their acquaintance with iron mail-coats, — which I suppose were introduced by the Tungus,[3] — the Koryak wore mail-coats of walrus-skin or of small plates of bone joined by means of straps. Krasheninnikoff says that "the Koryak armor consisted of oblong bone pieces sewed together with thongs".[4]

Fortifications. — The maritime Koryak fortified their villages in order to prevent sudden attacks by the enemy and to withstand a siege. Whenever possible, they built their villages on islands near the coast, to which they resorted to fish and hunt sea-mammals. They had temporary dwellings at the mouths of rivers. At the approach of a foe, they would take to their boats and disappear in the natural forts formed by the rocky islands. At present these islets are uninhabited, but it is said that on many of them traces of ancient dwellings may still be seen. To my regret, during the first half of the summer of 1901, which I spent in the Russian settlement Kushka, at the mouth of the Gishiga River, it was impossible to venture out in the wooden boats of the Russian settlers to the islands of which the Koryak spoke to me.[5]

Where no islands were near the coast, the maritime Koryak fortified their villages. The islanders, too, fortified their temporary coast settlements. All the coast villages were built on hills with a steep descent to the sea. On the land side the settlement was surrounded by an embankment, a stone wall, or a stockade. When an attack was expected, sentinels were stationed on

[1] See Part I, p. 138.
[2] See Chapter X.
[3] Compare Bogoras, The Chukchee, pp. 167, 168.
[4] Compare Krasheninnikoff, II, p. 51.
[5] During that summer I succeeded in making two trips in wooden boats from the mouth of the Gishiga River, — one to the Koryak at the mouth of the Ovekovn River, a distance of about fourteen miles; and the other to the Koryak at the mouth of the Nayahlun River, a distance of a hundred miles. The latter trip was considered so dangerous that the Russian settlers advised me not to undertake it. But luck favored us, the weather was fine, and I covered the distance in two days, but on the return trip we were detained in the uninhabited Bay of Anyhlun (See Plate XXIX, Fig. 2) for several days by stormy weather.

1: Jochelson E-5 (1900-01) 1908 RJ4 Koryak RJ4

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the roofs of houses or storehouses; for, in case of a sudden attack by the enemy on the hamlets of the sedentary Koryak, the inhabitants of underground houses found themselves, as it were, in a trap. For this reason, at least one guard was always kept in the settlements of warriors. In case of an attack, the women and old people would launch the skin boats, if the sea was open, so as to be ready to flee, in case of defeat, with the surviving warriors. I was told that the inhabitants of the old settlement near the mouth of the river Gishiga, having lost a battle with the Cossacks, took to their skin boats, and succeeded in escaping to the Yanak Koryak. At the mouth of the river Nayakhan I saw traces of a fortified settlement. It was situated on a rocky promontory, with cliffs on three sides rising abruptly from the sea. On the fourth side there is a steep descent to the river-valley. This slope had been protected with a stone rampart. Piles of stones which once formed the wall are still visible. Tradition relates that the Russians were led there by Tungus who were hostile to the Koryak. The latter stubbornly defended the approach to the village. It was winter, and they poured water on the slope to make it slippery. During one night the Russians forged sharp iron ice-creepers, tied them under the soles of their fur boots, and stormed the fort. Many of them perished from the arrows of the Koryak and from stones which they rolled down; but as they were many, their fire-arms gave them the victory in the end. Thereupon the Koryak warriors slew all the women and children in their houses. Many of them committed suicide, and only a few found safety in flight by sliding down the cliffs to the sea, and reaching Paren over the ice. I found traces of a fortified settlement also in the Bay of Atykino (Plate XXIX, Fig. 2).

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At sight of an enemy, the Reindeer Koryak drove their herds up the mountains and defended the approach. In the open tundra they would surround the camp with a wall of sleighs placed upright and tied together with thongs, having first driven the reindeer into the corral. From this fortified corral the warriors would make sallies or go out to accept a challenge to single-handed fights with the champions of the invaders.